

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 November 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
9 NOVEMBER 1967

1. Congo

Mobutu has called an emergency committee meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for tomorrow to discuss the evacuation of the mercenaries now in Rwanda. He has also asked the Rwandans not to allow any evacuation until the meeting considers the matter.

Mobutu has backed down somewhat in his demands for extradition of the mercenaries, and now says he will allow them to leave if he can get a guarantee that they will not return. Whether the Rwandans will allow the mercenaries to stay in their country until the OAU acts, however, remains uncertain.

2. Nigeria

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3. West Germany

Chancellor Kiesinger is holding firm to the middle ground on the delicate question of Britain's entry into the European Communities.

His recent public statements have been so vague as to lead the press into contradictory interpretations. Thus, one West German newspaper concludes "Kiesinger supports De Gaulle," while another maintains that the Chancellor is demanding "De Gaulle, give in."

Embassy Bonn views Kiesinger's muggump tactics as further evidence of his determination to avoid a crisis and continue gentle persuasion tactics vis-a-vis the French.

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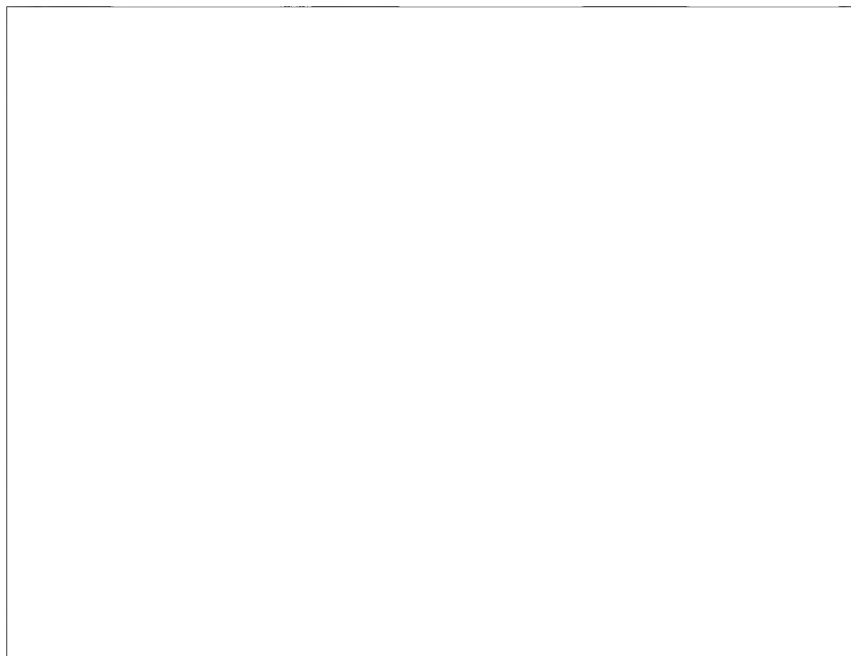
4. Communist China

There are a number of signs that Peking is having trouble convincing militant Red Guards to abandon violence and return to school.

Tensions between opposing Red Guard organizations remain high in many areas and clashes between rival groups appear to have increased recently. The level of violence, however, is still far below that of last summer.

5. Vietnam

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6. Cuba

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[redacted] a large number of "old-line" Cuban Communists have been arrested recently. We are not yet sure whether this means a renewed campaign against the pre-Castro Communists. If so, it will certainly inflame the grievances between the old guard and the "new" types and probably further damage Havana's relations with Moscow.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Hanoi Reaffirms Terms for Settlement: Premier Pham Van Dong has reaffirmed Hanoi's standard terms for a settlement of the war and for talks with the US. At a reception honoring a visiting Soviet anniversary delegation on 7 November, Dong told his audience that the basis "to settle the Vietnam problem is the four points of the North Vietnamese Government and the political program of the Liberation Front--the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people." He further declared that if the US wants talks with Hanoi, it "must act on the 28 January statement of Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh." That statement called on the US to halt unconditionally the bombings "and all other acts of war" against North Vietnam as the conditions for talks. Dong gave no indication that Hanoi is now demanding that such a bombing halt be "definitive" (i.e., final or permanent) as did Party First Secretary Le Duan in a 3 November speech before the Supreme Soviet in Moscow.

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The Premier also provided a similar statement on negotiations and a variety of other subjects to a British reporter. These were published on 8 November. Dong told the reporter that the North Vietnamese expect further escalation of the war and that they are ready to cope with it. He pointed to the forthcoming second session of the Bertrand Russell war crimes tribunal as an event of "great international importance," claiming that it will throw more light on the "monstrous crimes of the US." Dong also went to some length in stressing the importance of the Liberation Front's new program and that organization's claim to be the "only true representative of the South Vietnamese people." Dong termed the present Saigon administration "quislings" who are not taken seriously, and asserted that the struggle against the Americans compels everyone to take a stand--either in favor of or against the US--"there is no third road."

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Construction Continuing at Yen Bai Airfield:
Photography of 29 October shows construction is continuing to the runway at Yen Bai airfield northwest of Hanoi. Concrete appears to have been laid on part of the runway and the parallel taxiway. Three parking aprons, 13 aircraft revetments, and a dispersal taxiway were also observed. This is the first progress noted at the field since 20 June when it appeared that preparations were under way to surface the runway.

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Effects of US River Mining Operations: A [redacted]
[redacted] correspondent stationed in North Vietnam has told US officials that, as of early August, the people of North Vietnam were distressed by the fact that mines had been dropped into rivers. The mines had not been removed because the North Vietnamese Navy was not familiar with minesweeping methods. The traffic of river craft carrying rice and vegetables was restricted and river navigation appeared to be greatly obstructed, especially on rivers between Hanoi and Haiphong.

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Hanoi Says "Get in the Rice": On 5 November, Hanoi issued its seasonal exhortation to mobilize labor in the countryside to harvest this month's rice

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Largely because of a long period of drought, it is estimated that this year's important 10th month crop--about two-thirds of a 4.5 million ton average yearly crop--will be about 10 percent or 200-300 thousand tons short. The crop harvested in early summer had an estimated 200 thousand ton shortfall. Grain imports this year have been running far ahead of 1966 imports.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Negro Servicemen: A 6 November Hanoi English language broadcast to US troops in South Vietnam asserts that American Negroes are not only "suffering racial brutality and denied their freedom in the ghettos," but are also "discriminated against in the armed forces and in Vietnam." The broadcast claims that few Negro soldiers can get officer's rank and quotes Senator Edward Brooke as saying that "the Negro is not given the authority to attain command." Hanoi also cites a 28 May report in the US magazine Tan claiming that a Negro colonel was given a desk job that never existed before, "simply to keep him from being assigned to a field command."

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